

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 1-8-57

Week Ending 1-5-57

WEATHER December was mild with temperatures averaging approximately 5° above normal over the State. The month was very dry with no precipitation of consequence except in the northeastern part of the State and southern portion of the Panhandle. Some stations in the southwestern Panhandle received more than normal precipitation for the month. There was light wind movement and no severe cold temperatures.

Temperatures averaged only slightly above normal during the week, with no marked extremes. The beginning of the week was rather warm, but seasonably cold weather prevailed during the middle of the week, and a little warmer weather during the last day. A little light snow fell over the Panhandle, and at a few scattered localities elsewhere during the last three days of the week, but most of the State received no measurable precipitation. There was little wind, and several days were clear.

CROPS Another week without moisture of consequence and mild temperatures further aggravated the already dry situation that prevails in Nebraska. The topsoil is in a vulnerable condition for blowing should winds of high velocity occur. In the southeastern part of the state, several farm wells are going dry and water for livestock as well as for domestic consumption is becoming a problem. Some counties report the driest conditions of record. Precipitation during the past year, while not far below normal in some areas, occurred early in the year and also the rains were heavy and considerable runoff occurred, thus making less moisture available for the soil and growing crops.

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Winter wheat was showing some signs of coming out of the dormant stage, but the lower temperatures recently have slowed plant development and most of the crop will be safe from severe damage if a sudden drop in temperature to below zero occurs. There was some loss of acreage from wind erosion during the past week. If dry conditions continue, a larger portion of the winter wheat acreage will be placed in the soil bank program.

Farm operations during the past week consisted mainly of the usual chores of which feeding of livestock was the major one. There is very little frost in the ground and farmers were able to mend fences and do some land leveling. Temperatures generally were a little too low for the use of irrigation sprinkler systems. Many farmers were searching for seed to be used for planting spring crops. At present there appears to be a shortage of good oats and barley seed. Most farmers have contracted for their seed corn and grain sorghum.

LIVESTOCK Livestock continue in good condition. Cattle in dry lots have made excellent gains, but market prices have been decidedly on the low side discouraging feeder operations. Range cattle have fared well under the winter conditions to date as ranges have been open and feed available. Most counties report a rather low supply of hay and forage for livestock maintenance, and the mild weather has been of material benefit in conserving this low supply. While a heavy snow would be beneficial to the winter wheat and rye crops, it would cause a severe drain on feed supplies and perhaps hasten liquidation or severe culling of some cattle herds. Weather conditions have been favorable for lambing, and a good crop is expected. While the number of sows to farrow this spring is down from a year earlier, the number of pigs saved per litter from sows farrowing is on a high level.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 7, 1957

Eastern Division

Grand Island	0
Lincoln	.02
Norfolk	0
Omaha	0
Sioux City	.02

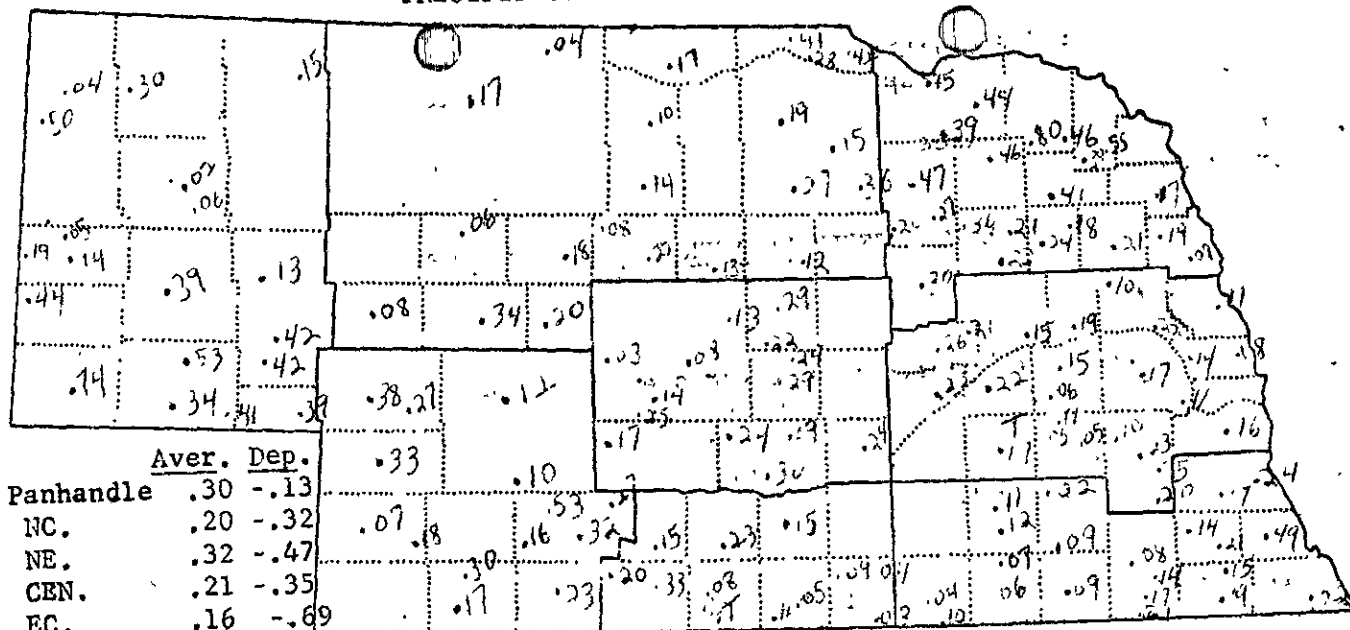
Central Division

Burwell	.04
North Platte	0
Valentine	0

Western Division

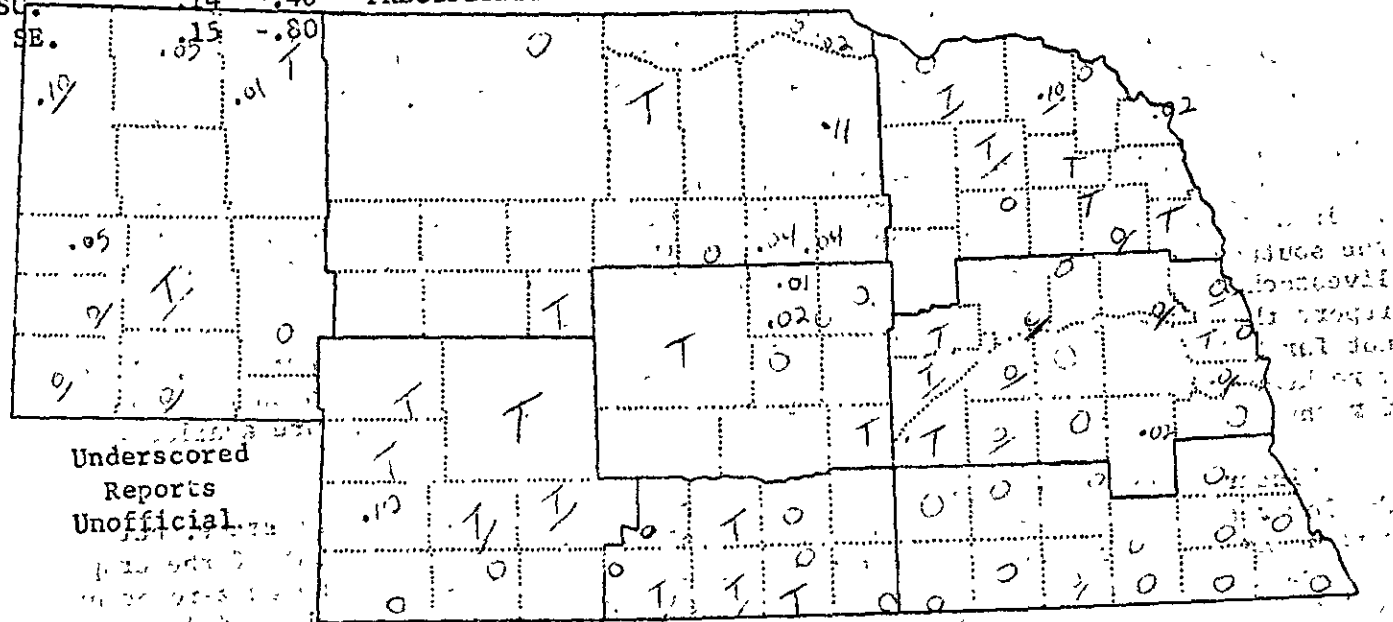
Chadron	.05
Imperial	.10
Scottsbluff	.05
Sidney	0

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1956



	Aver.	Dep.
Panhandle	.30	-.13
NC.	.20	-.32
NE.	.32	-.47
CEN.	.21	-.35
EC.	.16	-.69
SW.	.22	-.25
SC.	.14	-.46
SE.	.15	-.80

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 4, 1957



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		January 1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th
		Max Min	Max Min	Max Min	Max Min	Max Min	Max Min	Max Min
NW	Chadron	44 20	50 28	52 26	37 11	30 13	30 6	38 16
	Scottsbluff	52 18	50 18	52 20	42 14	40 7	31 24	40 18
	Sidney	50 20	50 18	54 23	40 17	33 8	30 13	39 15
NC	Burwell	-- --	-- --	43 28	43 10	26 22	38 25	42 13
	Valentine	45 21	31 24	55 24	37 7	27 10	38 12	40 13
NE	Norfolk	43 20	28 16	40 30	42 15	23 17	37 23	41 17
	Sioux City	41 14	26 13	41 33	41 16	21 19	36 19	41 22
CEN.	Grand Island	50 25	29 13	43 27	46 18	25 23	36 29	45 18
EC.	Lincoln	50 24	31 18	40 36	47 22	28 23	38 30	46 25
	Omaha	46 21	28 13	37 35	41 17	24 16	36 27	42 22
SW	Imperial	54 16	47 19	50 30	46 6	28 12	35 22	43 13
	North Platte	52 15	40 19	44 23	43 15	28 22	32 26	43 14

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Lincoln 1, Nebraska

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